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RESEARCH OUTLINE

West Virginia

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™
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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This outline describes major sources of information about families from West Virginia. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records. Also use the *Virginia Research Outline* to learn about many pre-1863 Virginia records that apply to West Virginia families.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has most of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include 12,000 microfilms of vital records, court records, newspapers, deeds, surveys, and wills. The library has excellent records for most counties for the 1800s and many vital records to about 1970. There are few records for Lincoln County (whose records were destroyed by fire) and Mingo County (which was created in 1895 from Logan county).

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ found at the Family History Library and at each local Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  WEST VIRGINIA - GENEALOGY
  WEST VIRGINIA, KANAWHA - VITAL RECORDS
  WEST VIRGINIA, KANAWHA, CHARLESTON - NEWSPAPERS

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

  UNITED STATES - ***CENSUS***
  WEST VIRGINIA - ***GENEALOGY***
  WEST VIRGINIA, KANAWA - ***VITAL RECORDS***
  WEST VIRGINIA, KANAWA, CHARLESTON - ***NEWSPAPERS***

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Archives and History Library
  Division of Culture and History
  The Cultural Center
  Capitol Complex
  Charleston, WV 25305-0300
  Telephone: 304-558-0220
  Fax: 304-558-2779

- National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region
  9th and Market Streets
  Philadelphia, PA 19107-4292
  Telephone: 215-597-3000
  Fax: 215-597-2303

- West Virginia Genealogical Society
  P.O. Box 172
  Elkview, WV 25071

- West Virginia Collection
  West Virginia University Library
  Colson Hall
  P.O. Box 6069
  Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
  Telephone: 304-293-3640
  Fax: 304-293-6923

A useful guide to this collection is James W. Hess, *Guide to Manuscripts and Archives in the West Virginia Collection* (Morgantown, W.Va.: West Virginia University Library, 1974; FHL book 975.4 A5h; 1959 edition by Charles Shetler, is on film 940918 item 4).

- Library of Virginia (State Library)
  800 East Broad St.
  Richmond, VA 23219-1905
  Telephone: 804-692-3888
  Fax: 804-692-3556

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The Virginia State Library is an important resource for pre-1863 West Virginia research.

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of West Virginia counties, use the 13 inventories of the county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has copies of all of these inventories. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES.

The Historical Records Survey also compiled unpublished (manuscript) inventories for the records of most West Virginia counties. These are available on microfilm at the Family History Library. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from West Virginia in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
  http://www.usgenweb.com/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- Roots-L
  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains many West Virginia Bible records. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline and is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States* (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979; FHL book 973 D22kk v. 1; fiche 6089183).

BIOGRAPHY

You can usually find biographical information in state, regional, and county histories. An excellent source of biographical information on past and present West Virginians is Jim Comstock, *West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia* and the supplemental series (see the "History" section of this outline).

An index to biographical sketches in several hundred local histories and genealogies is P. G. Wardell, *Timesaving Aid to Virginia-West Virginia Ancestors: A Genealogical Index of Surnames from Published Sources,* 4 vols. (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1990; FHL book 975 D22w).

Representative biographical sources at the Family History Library are:

Atkinson, George Wesley. *Prominent Men of West Virginia.* Wheeling, W. Va.: W. L. Callin, 1890. (FHL film 1000648 item 3).

Callaham, James Morton. *History of West Virginia, Old and New.* 3 vols. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1923. (FHL book 975.4 H2c; vol. 1 on film 1425634 item 4 and vols. 2-3 on film 1698201 items 1-2.) Volumes two and three are biographical.

Men of West Virginia. 2 vols. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1903. (FHL book 975.4 D3; film 874390 items 1-2.)

Miller, Thomas Condit, and Hu Maxwell. *West Virginia and Its People.* 3 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913. (FHL book 975.4 H2mw; film 1000646.) Volumes two and three include family and personal histories.

CEMETERIES

The Family History Library has a good collection of cemetery records from West Virginia. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under each specific county.

The West Virginia Historical Records Survey compiled the *Cemetery Readings in West Virginia in 1939 and 1940* (FHL films 250207-10). This is a large collection of cemetery descriptions, locations, and tombstone inscriptions. These records are described in the Family History Library Catalog under each county. The original documents are at the West Virginia University Library.

An important collection of cemetery records for Harrison County and some adjacent localities is also at the Family History Library (FHL films 163926-31). The original records are part of the Guy W. Tetrick collection (described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

The West Virginia State Archives has a partial card index to tombstone inscriptions. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection (described in the "Genealogy" section) also contains numerous cemetery records.

CENSUS

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of West Virginia from 1810 to 1920. West Virginia was part of Virginia in the pre-1870 censuses. The 1790, 1800, half of the 1810, and the 1890 censuses have been lost or destroyed. The 1890 Union veterans schedule (FHL films 338268-69) and a published index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

For the missing 1790 census use the two substitutes listed below. These are based on state censuses and tax lists. Each covers different counties. Most of present-day West Virginia is included in the second item, but both must be used for a complete search of West Virginia.

Fothergill, Augusta B., and John Mark Naugle. *Virginia Tax Payers, 1782-87, Other than Those Published by the United States Census Bureau.* 1940. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1966. (FHL book 975.5 R4f 1966; film 874197 item 4.) This includes areas of Augusta, Berkley, Hardy, and Montgomery counties in Virginia that later became part of West Virginia.

Heads of Families . . . Records of the State Enumerations: 1782 to 1785, Virginia. 1908. Reprint. Baltimore: Southern Book Co., 1952. (FHL book 975.5 X2us 1790; film 874193 item 4.)

Also see the "Taxation" section of this outline for information about other tax lists which may be used as substitutes for the 1790 and 1800 censuses.

For the missing portions of the 1810 census use Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *A Supplement to the 1810 Census of Virginia: Tax Lists of the Counties for Which the Census is Missing* (Springfield, Va: Genealogical Books in Print, 1971; FHL book 975.5 R4s). This includes information from Cabell, Greenbrier, Hardy, and Tazewell counties (and 15 Virginia counties) that are missing from the 1810 census.

Published indexes are available for the 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. There are published indexes of all counties for 1880 plus a combined index. There are soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

The Family History Library and the Archives and History Library have mortality schedules on microfilm for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The schedules for 1860 and 1870 are indexed.

There are no state censuses for West Virginia except the 1782 to 1785 state censuses noted above.

CHURCH RECORDS

The Church of England (now Protestant Episcopal) was the established church in Virginia (including West Virginia) from 1624 to 1786. Other major religious groups in West Virginia were the Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and United Brethren churches.

The Historical Records Survey produced detailed inventories of existing church records for the Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, and Episcopal churches. The Family History Library has copies of these inventories. W. Guy Tetrick also surveyed and

described the records of many West Virginia churches (FHL film 163930).

Church records from various denominations are available at the West Virginia University and the Archives and History Library. The Family History Library has a few original church records from West Virginia and some published histories.

Many church records are also available at the Virginia State Library. To learn about this collection, see Jewell T. Clark, and Elizabeth Terry Long, *A Guide to Church Records in the Archives Branch of the Virginia State Library* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1981; FHL book 975.5 K23c).

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

Baptist

West Virginia Baptist Historical Society
Route #2 Box 304
Ripley, WV 25271
Telephone: 304-346-2036

Methodist

Methodist Historical Society
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Annie M. Pfeiffer Library
College Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201
Telephone: 304-473-8059
Fax: 304-473-8888

Episcopal

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia
1608 Virginia Street East
Charleston, WV 25311
Telephone: 304-344-3597
Fax: 304-343-3295

Most of the early parish registers are incomplete or missing, but those still existing are at the Virginia State Library. An excellent published history is George W. Peterkin, *A History and Record of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of West Virginia* (Charleston, W.Va.: Tribune Co., 1902; FHL book 975.4 K2p).

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
1300 Byron Street
P.O. Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
Telephone: 304-233-0880
Fax: 304-233-0890

United Brethren

Historical Library
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
Telephone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

COURT RECORDS

West Virginia was part of Virginia until 1863 and had the same court jurisdictions as Virginia counties. For information on courts changed or abolished prior to 1863, see the *Virginia Research Outline.*

West Virginia courts that have kept records of genealogical value include the following:

1863-pres. ***Supreme Court of Appeals*** is the highest state court. It hears appeals from the circuit courts. The library does not have records from this court.

1852-pres. ***Circuit courts*** have jurisdiction in from one to four counties over criminal, civil, and equity cases, including divorces. They also serve as an appellate court for county, statutory, and other inferior courts. From 1809 to 1852 they were known as ***circuit superior courts of law.*** The Family History Library has some circuit court records, such as Kanawha County law records and issue dockets (1831-83), fee books (1808-1919), and chancery records (1831-1930).

1643-1863
1872-pres. ***County courts*** have countywide jurisdiction over probates and guardianships. Their primary responsibility is to serve as the administrative body of the county. They have custody over documents such as leases, deeds and judgements.

From 1863 to 1872 this court was abolished. Its judicial functions were handled by the circuit courts and its administrative functions by a board of supervisors established in each township. It was reestablished in 1872 with its former jurisdictions. Many of the supervisors' records are in the custody of the county courts.

The Family History Library has many county court records, such as over 300 microfilms of various Kanawha County Court records from 1773 to the early 1900s.

1863-pres. ***Statutory courts*** were created at various times by special acts of the state legislature. The jurisdiction of these courts varies but may include limited civil cases, domestic relations, and appeals from municipal and justice courts. They exist in various counties (usually the most

populous) under different names such as ***criminal courts***, ***intermediate courts***, or ***common pleas courts.***

Statutory courts with general criminal jurisdiction and some civil jurisdiction exist in Cabell, Harrison, Kanawha, McDowell, Marion, Mercer, Ohio, and Raleigh counties. Statutory courts with limited civil jurisdiction only are in Cabell, Hancock, Kanawha, Marshall, and Wood counties.

The Family History Library has records of some of these courts, such as 13 microfilms from the Intermediate Court of Marion county including chancery and law orders from 1893 to 1919.

1863-pres. ***Municipal courts*** have citywide jurisdiction over misdemeanors and preliminary hearings for felonies. The library has some records of these courts on microfilm.

1863-pres. ***Justice courts*** have been established in magisterial districts (there are three to ten districts in each county). These courts have jurisdiction over minor criminal (misdemeanor) and civil cases involving less than $300.

A justice of the peace usually turned over the dockets and records of his court to his successor and many of these records have been lost. Beginning about 1917 the justice gave quarterly lists of fines and payments to the county courts. Some of the justice court records are at county courthouses. The Family History Library has very few copies of these records.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has copies of court record books, order books, dockets, and indexes from the 1770s to about 1875, and to the 1930s for some counties. Other records are available at the various county courthouses or the Archives and History Library.

The early court records of Augusta county are available in Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scots-Irish Settlement in Virginia: Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County*, 1754-1800, 3 vols., 1912, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980; 1912 edition is on FHL films 162043-44).

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in West Virginia. For example, the Family History Library has directories for:

- Charleston
  1899-1900 . . . . . FHL film 940405 item 4
  1922, 1930, 1940 . . FHL book 975.437 E4p
- Huntington
  1899-1900 . . . . . FHL film 940405 item 4
  1930 . . . . . FHL book 973 E4ph
- Wheeling
  1839 . . . . . FHL fiche 6044636
  1851 . . . . . FHL fiche 6044637
  1899-1900 . . . . . FHL film 940405 item 4
  1903/4-1934 . . . . . FHL films 1760298-303
  1921, 1936, 1941 . . FHL book 975.41 E4p

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

The settlement of present-day West Virginia began in the mid-1700s when Scotch-Irish and German settlers from Pennsylvania came to the area that is now Berkeley and Greenbriar counties. Heavy settlement began in the 1760s after Indian claims had been settled. These pioneers were generally from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other northern states and not from Virginia or other areas east of the mountains.

In the early and mid-1800s, many Germans and Irish came directly to West Virginia. A few Blacks were brought to the region in the early years, but many more came after the Civil War to work in the coal mines. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, large numbers of immigrants arrived from Ireland and from southern and eastern Europe, especially Hungary, Italy, and Poland.

Records

Philadelphia was an important port of entry to West Virginia, but the major port between 1870 and 1915 was New York, where thousands of European immigrants boarded labor trains headed for the coal fields. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for New York for 1820 to 1919, and indexes for 1820 to 1846 and 1897 to 1943. The lists for Philadelphia date from 1800 to 1916 with indexes for 1800 to 1948. More detailed information on U.S. immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline.*

Names of colonial immigrants to America that have been listed in published sources are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.* 15 vols. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-; FHL book 973 W32p; some volumes are on films beginning with 1597960 items 4-6). The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index published in 1981. Supplemental volumes have been issued annually. There are also later cumulative indexes.

The early court records of Augusta county through 1800, which include many of the first settlers of West Virginia, have been published in Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scots-Irish Settlement in Virginia* (see the "Court Records" section of this outline).

Records of ethnic groups such as Italians and Jews are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA - MINORITIES.

GAZETTEERS

Many place names can be found in the *West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia* (see the "History" section of this outline). Other sources of information about places in West Virginia are:

Gannett, Henry. *A Gazetteer of Virginia and West Virginia.* 1904. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975. (FHL book 975 E5gh; film 928042 item 4.)

Kenny, Hamill T. *West Virginia Place Names: Their Origin and Meaning.* Piedmont, W. Va.: Place Names Press, 1945. (FHL book 975.4 E5k.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many important research collections.

Manuscript Collections

Willis Guy Tetrick Collection. This collection consists of family and other records of Harrison County and central West Virginia. The original collection is in the possession of the Tetrick family in Clarksburg, West Virginia and may be searched by appointment. Microfilm copies are available at the West Virginia University Library and at the Family History Library.

One portion of the collection is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA, HARRISON - GENEALOGY. This includes the *Family Records of Harrison County, West Virginia.* (FHL films 163723-838) and the *Family Sheets, an Uncompleted Survey for a "Genealogical History of Harrison County, West Virginia"* (FHL films 163848-96) which are arranged alphabetically.

Another portion of the Tetrick collection consists of transcripts of county records, cemetery records, Sons of the American Revolution applications, and newspaper obituaries. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the specific counties or cities (and record types).

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and probate records. It was microfilmed in 1970 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. and is available on 44 films at the Family History Library. The volumes are generally arranged by county and many have individual indexes. See the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - WEST VIRGINIA.

Elisha B. Iams Collection. This is a collection of over 70 volumes of information. It was extracted from the records of 16 counties in southwest Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio and thus is an important source of information about early Virginia and Pennsylvania settlers. It includes a card index with 6,500 entries. The collection has not been microfilmed. It is available at the Citizen's Library, 55 S. College Street, Washington, PA 15301.

West Virginia University Library, Genealogies. This is a collection of alphabetized pedigrees and genealogies of West Virginia families. It is available at the Family History Library (FHL films 239244-53).

Smith-Rife Collection of New River Genealogy and Local History. This collection by Aubrey O. Smith and Winton A. Rife relates mainly to families from Boone, Fayette, Greenbriar, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, and Wyoming counties, and some southeast border counties. The original collection is at the Archives and History Library.

The collection is available on microfilm at the Family History Library in two parts. The family section (FHL films 1036968-77) consists of loose alphabetized papers such as family group records, obituaries, newspaper clippings, Bible records, pedigrees, and cemetery records for 189 major families. The locality section (FHL films 1036978-80) contains cemetery transcriptions, church records, county courthouse abstracts, and other records, arranged by county.

Genealogical Records of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, 18th Century to 1975 by Hazel Hansrote. This handwritten collection of genealogies and research extracts is alphabetized by surname. It is useful for finding information about Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania families who settled the West Augusta District (see the "History" section). It is available on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 984210-17).

Published Sources

An excellent source for information on early families and settlers of West Virginians is Jim Comstock, *West*

Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia and the supplemental series (see the "History" section of this outline).

You may also want to consult Earl G. Swem, *Virginia Historical Index* (see the "Periodicals" section) for references to genealogical information published in several outstanding historical and genealogical periodicals. Also see Wardell's, *Time Saving Aid to Virginia-West Virginia Ancestors* (see the "Biography" section).

Other published sources include:

Brown, Stuart E., Jr. *Virginia Genealogies, A Trial List of Printed Books and Pamphlets*. 3 vols. Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Co., 1967-89. (FHL book 975.5 D23b.) This set indexes about 4,000 family histories from manuscripts and books and periodicals published before 1980. This is a supplement to Robert Armistead Stewart's book, mentioned below.

Stewart, Robert Armistead. *Index to Printed Virginia Genealogies*. 1930. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1970. (FHL book 975.5 D22s 1970; the 1965 reprint edition is on film 962558 item 2 and on fiche 6019375.) This book lists indexes about 650 Virginia family histories published before 1930.

Wardell, Patrick G. *Virginians & West Virginians*, 1607-1870. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1986-1992, 3 vols. in 4. (FHL book 975 D2wp.) Includes genealogical data abstracted from *History of Virginia*, 6 vols. (New York: American Historical Society, 1924; FHL book 975.5 H2a; films 1421672 item 11 and 1321473) and an index to the biographical volumes of that history.

Butcher, Bernard Lee. *Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia*. 3 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912. (FHL book 975.4 D2b; film 1000647.)

History of the Great Kanawha Valley: With Family History and Biographical Sketches. 2 vols. Madison, Wis.: Brant, Fuller & Co., 1891. (FHL film 1000648 items 1-2.)

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of West Virginia affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements. See the *Virginia Research Outline* for additional information about the earlier history and records of the area that became West Virginia.

1731-1734 Morgan Morgan, the first white settler in West Virginia established a home in Berkeley County, Virginia.

1738 Frederick and Augusta counties were formed from Orange County, Virginia. Frederick County included territory later in the Eastern panhandle of West Virginia and began functioning in 1743. Augusta County encompassed all the area west of the Blue Ridge mountains north of the Carolinas and began functioning in 1745.

1753 Hampshire County, Virginia was created. This was the first county whose boundaries were within present-day West Virginia.

1775 West Augusta District was established by Virginia and included all of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Ownership of part of this district was disputed with Pennsylvania.

1779 Virginia ceded most of the northern part of West Augusta District to Pennsylvania after Pennsylvania agreed to accept land grants that Virginia had made in the disputed region.

1784 Virginia ceded its claims north of the Ohio River to the United States but reserved a section known as the Virginia Military District for Revolutionary War bounty land.

1788 Virginia ratified the constitution and became a state.

1861-1865 In a dispute over secession, fifty western counties broke off to form the "restored government of Virginia," which remained loyal to the Union. The state of West Virginia was admitted to the Union in 1863. During the Civil War, about 32,000 West Virginia soldiers enlisted in the Union Army, while 9,000 served the Confederacy.

1870s Industrial expansion in West Virginia attracted Black immigrants from southern states and European immigrants from overseas.

Sources for studying the history of West Virginia include:

The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. 25 vols. Richwood, W. Va.: Jim Comstock, 1976. (FHL book 975.4 H26w; fiche 6051466-490.) This primarily includes biographical and geographical sketches from other published sources. This serves as a partial index to the *Supplemental Series* (see below).

The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia: Supplemental Series. 25 vols. Richwood, W.Va.: Jim Comstock, 1974. (FHL book 975.4 H26wa; vols. 12-13 on film 1321160 item 9; vols. 1-25 on fiche 6051350.) This contains reprints of several articles and books related to West Virginia history and people.

Rice, Otis K. *West Virginia: A History*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1985. (FHL book 975.4 H2ric.)

Helpful bibliographies of West Virginia local histories are:

Forbes, Harold M. *West Virginia History: A Bibliography & Guide to Research*. Morgantown, W. Va.; West Virginia University Press, 1981. (FHL book 975.4 H2f.)

Daughters of the American Revolution, West Virginia. *Bibliography of Local History and Genealogy*. N.p.: 1965. (FHL film 940922.) This is a helpful index to books and articles on West Virginia families.

To determine county boundary changes, see *West Virginia County Formations and Boundary Changes* (Charleston, W.Va.: Historical Records Survey, 1939; FHL book 975.4 E2h). Another helpful source is Sims, *Making a State: Formation of West Virginia* (described in the "Land and Property" section of this outline).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land Grants

In 1744 Virginia encouraged the settlement of western Virginia by offering land speculators 1,000 acres for each family they brought to settle the frontier. These speculators organized land companies, such as the Greenbriar Company and the Loyal Land Company of Virginia. These companies surveyed the land and sold the surveys to individuals who obtained title by patent from the Secretary of the Colony or, after 1779, from the Virginia Land Office. By 1754 over 2 1/2 million acres had been granted to land companies.

The first warrants for military bounty land in present-day West Virginia were issued in 1782 through the Virginia Land Office. Many soldiers sold their warrants to speculators who resold the land to others (see the "Military Records" section of this outline).

After West Virginia became a state, the state government took possession of all unowned land and continued issuing grants. The original state land grants, sales, and surveys for West Virginia are located at the Office of the State Auditor, Capitol Building, County Collections Div., Building-1 Room W-212, Charleston, WV 25305, Telephone: 304-558-2251, Fax: 304-558-5200. The Archives and History Library has copies of these records. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of these records, including:

- Land grants arranged by counties, 1748-1912 (on 56 FHL films beginning with 521685)
- Land sales, 1860-75 (FHL films 558437-39)
- Plats and surveys, 1863-89 (FHL film 462959)

The office of the state auditor published an index of all identifiable grantees from 1748 to the 1900s in Edgar Barr Sims, *Sims Index to Land Grants in West Virginia* (Charleston: E.B. Sims, 1952; FHL book 975.4 R21w; film 1036828 items 3-4). The grantees are listed alphabetically within the county that issued the grant. The actual grants are on microfilm (see above).

Information on boundary disputes and county formation data (including maps) is in Edgar Barr Sims, *Making a State: Formation of West Virginia* (Charleston: E.B. Sims, 1956; FHL book Q 975.4 R2s). This includes a supplement to the *Sims Index* (see above).

For more information on land grants see the *Virginia Research Outline* and the *United States Research Outline.*

Transfers of Land between Individuals

Land transactions after the original patent was issued have been recorded in county deed books (often titled *land books*). You can obtain copies by contacting the appropriate clerk's office—usually the clerk of the circuit court.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the pre-1900 records for most counties. From Kanawha County, for example, the library has 200 microfilms of lease records (1865-1906), release books (1866-1909), trust deeds (1855-1910), deeds (1790-1946), and homesteads (1874-1944).

MAPS

West Virginia University has a sizeable collection of maps. The Family History Library also has several West Virginia maps. A set of detailed topographic maps published 1911-1919 is on FHL film 163986. A helpful statewide atlas is *New Descriptive Atlas of West Virginia* (Clarksburg, W.Va.: Clarksburg Publishing Co., 1933; FHL book Q 975.4 E3n; film 1425710).

Modern county road maps can be purchased from:

West Virginia Department of Highways
Map Sales
Capitol Complex Bldg. 5
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0430
Telephone: 304-558-2868

Topographical maps are available from:

U.S. Department of Interior
Geological Survey
507 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: 1-800-USA-MAPS
Telephone: 703-648-6045

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about federal records. For information on records from the colonial period to 1863, see the *Virginia Research Outline*.

The Archives and History Library has the original adjutant general's records for the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Civil War (Union and Confederate), and Spanish-American War. These include muster and descriptive rolls, enlistment records, and correspondence.

Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Two particularly helpful sources for West Virginia ancestors who participated in the Revolutionary War are:

Johnston, Ross B. *West Virginia in the American Revolution*. 1959. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977. (FHL book 975.4 M2j; the 1959 edition is on fiche 6087736). This includes sketches of over 1,300 soldiers who lived in West Virginia at some time in their life.

Reddy, Anne Waller. *West Virginia Revolutionary Ancestors Whose Services were Non-military*. 1930. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1963. (FHL book 975.4 N2r; film 1321057 item 6.) This book lists persons in the Revolutionary Public Claims records who gave aid and support ("provisions and other necessaries") to the revolutionary forces. Most of these patriots do not appear in other Revolutionary War sources.

Civil War (1861-1865)

For an excellent discussion of West Virginia's part in the Civil War see Boyd B. Stutler, *West Virginia in the Civil War*, (Charleston, W.Va.: Educational Foundation, 1963; FHL book 975.4 M2s).

Union. Indexes to service and pension records of Union volunteers are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. The library also has 261 microfilms of the *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of West Virginia*. The records are arranged alphabetically by the soldiers' names within each unit. Use the index (FHL films 881595-607) to learn which unit your ancestor served in. The pension records are available only at the National Archives, however the Family History Library has the index on microfilms.

Confederate. West Virginia did not organize any confederate regiments nor did they grant pensions to confederate veterans. The approximately 9,000 West Virginians who chose to fight for the Confederate States of America generally joined the confederate regiments of Virginia (see the *Virginia Research Outline*). Virginia's 22nd Infantry was composed almost entirely of soldiers from West Virginia. The 31st and 46th Infantry also had large numbers from West Virginia. Some confederate veterans may have received pensions from Virginia (records with index on 219 FHL films beginning with 1439763).

The Archives and History Library has a list of Confederate soldiers and an alphabetical card index to Confederate graves.

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for West Virginia, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *West Virginia, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with film 1992327.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several.

Additional Military Records

Various rosters of soldiers for the French and Indian War, Indian Wars, Lord Dunmore's War, Revolutionary War, Whiskey Insurrection of 1794, War of 1812, Mexican War, and the Civil War, are in Virgil A. Lewis, *The Soldiery of West*

Virginia. 1911, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978; FHL book 975.4 M2L). A separate index has been published. This book has also been reprinted (and updated through the Vietnam War) as vol. 9 of *The West Virginia Historical Encyclopedia: Supplemental Series* (see the "History" section of this outline).

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Most West Virginia courts or counties recorded naturalization proceedings in the minutes and dockets of the courts rather than keeping separate registers. Prior to 1906, any court of record could naturalize immigrants. From 1906 to 1929 the federal government regulated naturalization but allowed most state or county courts to continue naturalizing immigrants. After 1929 only federal courts handled naturalizations.

For pre-1906 naturalizations you will have to search the records of all local, state, and federal courts in the area where your ancestor lived. In West Virginia most immigrants were naturalized in the state circuit or county courts so you will want to begin your search in those courts. These records are in the possession of the clerk of the circuit court or county clerk of the county. The Family History Library has copies of most West Virginia court records to the early 1900s (see the "Court Records" section of this outline).

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region (for the records of the U.S. district courts in West Virginia) or your local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Some records between 1906 and 1929 are also at the office of the clerk of the circuit court in each county.

NEWSPAPERS

By 1863 nine newspapers were being published in West Virginia. The largest collections of newspapers are at the Archives and History Library and the West Virginia University Library. A guide to the collection at the West Virginia University Library is *Newspapers in the West Virginia University Library* (Morgantown, W.Va.: West Virginia University Library, 1964; not at FHL).

The Family History Library has more than 1,100 microfilms of West Virginia newspapers including the *Wheeling Register* from 1863 to 1913.

The Family History Library has the obituary portion, *Obituaries from Newspapers*, of the Tetrick collection which includes obituaries from northern West Virginia from 1929 to 1949 (FHL films 163932-49). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA, HARRISON, CLARKSBURG - OBITUARIES (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

The library also has a collection of obituaries from 1931 and 1932 in W. Guy. Tetrick, *Obituaries from Newspapers of Northern West Virginia*. 2 vols. (Clarksburg, W.Va.: W. G. Tetrick, 1933; FHL 975.4 V4t; film 1033974 items 2-3). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA - VITAL RECORDS.

PERIODICALS

A variety of genealogical material has been published in periodicals. An index to several significant periodicals and other published sources is Earl Gregg Swem, *Virginia Historical Index*, 2 vols. in 4, 1934-36, Reprint (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1965; FHL book 977.5 H22s; fiche 6046961; 1965 reprint on films 485948-49).

See the *Virginia Research Outline* for a list of helpful periodicals that include pre-1863 West Virginia. Other major genealogical periodicals helpful for West Virginia are:

The Journal of the Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society. 1977-. Published by the Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 8555, South Charleston, WV 25303-8555. (FHL book 975.43 D25j.)

Tri-County Researcher. 1976-. Published by Linda Goddard Stout, P.O. Box 196, Proctor, WV 26055-0196, Telephone: 304-455-3203. (FHL book 975.41 B2t; vols. 1-11 and 13 are on fiche 6048907-18.) Covers Marshall, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties.

Virginia Genealogist. 1957-. Published by John Frederick Dorman, P.O. Box 4883, Washington, D.C. 20008. (FHL book 975.5 B2vg; vols. 1-12, 21-35 on films 844855 item 2-4 and 844856-7.) There are cumulative indexes for volumes 1-35.

West Augusta Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter. 1944-. Published by the West Augusta Historical and Genealogical Society, 2515 10th Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101-5829. (FHL book 975.422 D25t.)

West Virginia History: A Quarterly Magazine. 1939-. Published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, West Virginia, 25305-0300. (FHL book 975.4 B2wh.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records of West Virginia have been kept by the county courts. You can obtain copies of the

complete probate packets by contacting the county clerk's office in the appropriate courthouse. Some probate matters have been recorded in deed books and court order books.

The Family History Library has copies of many calendars of wills, order books, witness books, bonds, fee books, inventories, appraisals, and bills of sale from most counties. From Kanawha County, for example, the library has 208 microfilms of fiduciary settlements for 1871 to 1968, and 121 films of wills for 1820 to 1968.

The following publications index early wills and estate settlements:

Johnston, Ross B. *West Virginia Estate Settlements to 1850*. Fort Worth, Tex.: American Reference Publishers, Inc., 1969. (FHL book 975.4 S2j.) This is arranged by counties and is indexed.

Torrence, Clayton. *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800*. 1930. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965. (FHL book 975.5 P22t; film 844943)

TAXATION

A set of annual land tax assessment records from 1782 to 1900 is available at the State Auditor's Office (Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305-0300). Duplicate copies are usually found at the county clerk's offices in the land books.

The Virginia State Library has the original personal property tax books for West Virginia counties from 1782 to 1863. The West Virginia Archives and History Library has tax books from 1863 to 1935. See the *Virginia Research Outline* for information on pre-1863 tax records.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the nineteenth century tax records of most counties.

The 1787 personal property lists have been published as a substitute for the 1790 census (see the "Census" section) in Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florence Speakman Love, comps., *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Names of Every White Male Tithable Over 21 Years*. 3 vols. (Springfield, Va.: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987; FHL book 975.5 R4sn).

As a substitute for the missing 1800 Virginia census, use the abstracts of the personal property tax lists of 1800 for the 13 counties in the area that became West Virginia. These have been published in Steven A. Bridges, *Virginians in 1800: Counties of West Virginia* (Trumbull, Conn.: Steven A. Bridges, 1987; FHL book 975.4 R4b).

VITAL RECORDS

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1917 and was generally complied with by 1925. The counties have copies of these records. Because most of the *state* copies of the records from 1917 to 1921 were destroyed in a fire, it is best to request vital records through 1921 from the county clerk (see below).

The Family History Library has microfilms of birth certificates 1852-1930 (FHL films beginning with 1992300), death certificates 1917-1994, and death indexes 1917-1991 (FHL films beginning with film 1984577). You can also obtain state copies of birth and death records from 1917 to the present for a fee by writing to:

Vital Registration Office,
State Capitol Complex No. 3, Rm 516
Charleston, WV 25305
Telephone: 304-558-2931
Fax: 304-558-1051

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv.) Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

County Records of Births and Deaths

County birth and death records date from 1853 to the present for most counties. Copies may be obtained from the county clerk. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of all available birth and death records from 1853 to about 1900, and to about 1970 for many counties.

The birth, marriage, and death records from 1853 to 1860 are on 10 microfilms (FHL film 034484-93) arranged by county and listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WEST VIRGINIA - VITAL RECORDS. Later records are listed under WEST VIRGINIA, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS.

Marriage Records

West Virginia marriages were recorded by the existing counties as early as 1780. For later counties, marriage records began when each county was organized. Marriage records can be obtained by writing to the county clerk of the county where the marriage took place.

For marriage records from 1853 to 1860 see the 10 microfilms described above under birth and death records.

The Family History Library has copies of all available marriage records from 1780 to about 1900 and to about 1970 for some counties.

The state has copies of the county records since 1964 and an index for 1921-1963. Records prior to 1964 are kept at the County Clerk's office where they applied to be married. You may obtain copies from 1964 to the present by writing to the Division of Vital Statistics (address given above).

Divorces

Divorce proceedings are kept by the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the divorce was granted. The Family History Library does not have any West Virginia divorce records.

FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of West Virginia is found in:

Ebert, Rebecca A. *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and West Virginia.* Winchester, Va.: The Rebecca Co., 1984. (FHL book 975 D27e.)

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Stinson, Helen S. *A Handbook for Genealogical Research in West Virginia*. South Charleston, W.Va.: Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society, 1981. (FHL book 975.4 D27s.)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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